

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7-10, 20-22, 24-26, 31-32 and 34-37 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 20, 31 and 37 have been amended. No new matter has been amended.

Rejection under 35 USC §112

Claims 31-37 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claim 31, as amended clarifies that the impedance is being compared to an impedance associated with the junction capacitance. In light of this amendment, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

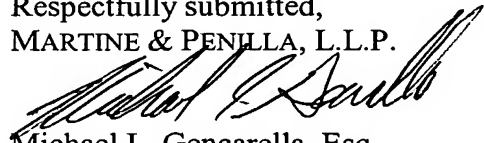
Claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7-10, 20-22, 24-26, 31-32 and 34-37 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,055,655 to Momohara in view of US Patent 6,157,073 to Lehongres.

Claims 1, 20, and 31 have been amended to include the features of forming a P-type well in an N-type well formed in the substrate and applying a bias voltage greater than V_{ss} to the P-type well. Support for these amendments may be found in Figure 23 and pages 27-31. It is respectfully submitted that Momohara does not teach or disclose that the P-well bias voltage can be greater than V_{ss} . Lehongres does nothing to cure this deficiency. Accordingly, in light of these amendments, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §103. Claims 2, 4-5, and 7-10 depend from claim 1, claims 21, 22, and 24-26 depend from claim 20, and claims 32 and 34-37 depend from claim 31. Therefore, for at least the above stated reasons, these dependent claims are patentable over the combination of Momohara and Lehongres.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event

a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 749-6900 x6921. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ALTEP026). A copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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